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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

HARRISBURG

August 12, 1960

The Honorable David L. Lawrence  
Governor of Pennsylvania  
State Capitol  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Dear Governor Lawrence:

In compliance with Dr. Kurtzman's request of June 28, 1960, we are submitting our report for the Biennium June 1, 1958 to May 31, 1960, which we believe shows progress in the management of the wild-life resources of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

New Commissioners

The administrative framework of the Commission was completed with the appointment of Carroll F. Hockersmith, Shippensburg, Franklin County, on November 5, 1958, who was confirmed by the Senate on December 15, 1959. Mr. Hockersmith replaced John C. Herman, Dauphin, Pennsylvania as a Member of the Commission.

The term of Russell M. Lucas, Philipsburg, Centre County, a previous appointee, expired January 20, 1959. Your reappointment of Mr. Lucas was confirmed by the Senate on December 15, 1959.

Personnel

Personnel at the close of the Biennium numbered 319 salaried and 392 hourly employees. The latter were employed part-time to meet seasonal requirements. Ten salaried employees were retired, and one was deceased.

Sixteen salaried employees, who completed a quarter-century of service, automatically became Members of the Game Commission's Twenty-Five Year Club.

The Commission's Executive Director, M. J. Golden, a high-ranking pistol competitor in the United States for many years, was elected to directorship in the National Rifle Association of America, on March 19, 1960.



### New Division Offices

The construction of two new Field Division Offices was started during the Biennium. The Northeast Division building located at Dallas, Luzerne County, is nearing completion and will be ready for occupancy about August 15, 1960. The Northwest Division Headquarters at Franklin, Venango County, is scheduled for completion about November 1, 1960. Both buildings are being constructed under the direction of the Bureau of Engineering and Construction, Department of Property and Supplies, and culminates long planning by the Commission to have adequate quarters for Division Offices.

### Meetings

Numerous important conferences and meetings were attended by Members of the Commission, the Executive Director and the Field and Office Staffs. In some instances Commissioners and personnel took part in the respective programs.

Pennsylvania was honored to have the Forty-Eighth Annual Convention of The International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners held in Philadelphia, September 11-12, 1958. Registered delegates and officials in attendance numbered 572. The Pennsylvania Game Commission and the Pennsylvania Fish Commission were joint hosts for the convention. Representatives of the Sportsmen's Federation cooperated in planning and executing the many details in connection with the convention. New Jersey Fish and Game officials also cooperated splendidly in making this occasion an outstanding success.

The American Association for Conservation Information held its 18th Annual Convention at Marshalls Creek, Monroe County, May 24-27, 1959. Delegates and officials came from thirty States, the Province of Ontario and Washington, D. C. The Pennsylvania Game Commission and the Pennsylvania Fish Commission collaborated in planning and executing the many details for this successful conference.

### Records Management Program

The Records Management Program submitted by the Game Commission was approved by the Office of Administration on June 4, 1958. Several hundred cubic feet of old records have been destroyed at the Harrisburg Office, the six Field Division Office Headquarters, the six Game Farms, the Conservation School and the Howard Nursery in the past two years.

A standard filing system has been devised for the Field Division Offices, one for the Game Farms, and one for all other field officers. All printing orders, sizes of paper used in printing and quantities of materials ordered, etc. have been checked to the end that this work may be done as economically as possible.

### Manual for New Employees

To supplement the printed manual prepared by the Governor's Office for new employees, the Game Commission has prepared a multilithed leaflet containing a number of items specially applicable to the work of the Game Commission.



New Legislation

New laws and amendments to existing laws were enacted, as follows:

Section 204. Meetings of Commission; Election of Officers. Requires the Game Commission to have a meeting in June or July each year.

Section 303. Nonresident Hunting, and Alien Nonresident License Fees. Eliminates the right of a nonresident to trap under a Nonresident Hunting License. A special license, at a cost of \$25, is provided for the nonresident trapper.

Sections 401, 402, 403, 407, 408, 409, 414, 415, 416, and clause (f) of Section 419. Domestic Mink. Jurisdiction and control over the possession, propagation and disposition of domestic mink is transferred from the Game Commission to the Department of Agriculture. These sections are repealed, insofar as they relate to domestic mink.

Section 411. Shooting Restrictions on Regulated Shooting Grounds. Extends the period for shooting pheasants, Bobwhite quail, Chukar partridges, and mallard or black ducks on these areas to include the month of March. Previously, the shooting season ended on the last day of February.

Section 603. Illegal Methods of Taking Fur-Bearing Animals; Exceptions for Beaver. Authorizes the use of a body-gripping 10-inch by 10-inch trap for taking beaver, provided an underwater set is made.

Section 703. Lawful Methods of Hunting; Beaver Trapping. Makes it lawful to use a body-gripping 10-inch by 10-inch trap for taking beaver, provided an underwater set is made.

Section 715. Transportation of Game Outside of State. Permits a resident licensed hunter, who is a member of the Armed Services on active duty, to take with him personally when leaving the State, any game that he has lawfully taken or killed, not exceeding in one season, three (3) days' limit.

Section 731. Penalties; Second Offense; Restoration of Hunting Rights. (1) Increases the penalty involving an illegal deer in close season, second offense, to \$200, plus the mandatory denial of the offender's hunting rights for three years; and (2) after a convicted person has been denied the right to hunt for at least one year, gives the Game Commission, upon good cause shown, the authority to restore hunting rights to such person.

Section 807. Shooting at Wild Birds or Wild Animals While on Highways. Makes it unlawful to shoot at any wild bird or wild animal while it is on a public highway, or to shoot across such highway, or one open to the use of the public, while hunting, "unless the line of fire is high enough above the elevation of the highway to preclude any danger to the users thereof." Heretofore, this section applied to game hunting only.

Section 938. Special Dog Training Areas. Increases the number of Dog Training Areas to be permitted in any one county, from six to eight.



Section 1202. Legal Procedure: Available Magistrates. Defines more clearly "nearest available magistrate." Provides that a magistrate, alderman or justice of the peace is not available if he is not in his regular office between 9 A.M. and 5 P.M., or at other specified hours, notice of which is posted on the outside of his door.

#### ACCOUNTING SECTION - COMPTROLLER

During the biennium ending May 31, 1960, the Commission's cash receipts totalled \$11,318,905.14. In the same period cash disbursements amounted to \$11,083,332.41. Forty cents of each dollar spent was used for improvement of wildlife habitat; twenty-two cents for law enforcement; eighteen cents for propagation of game; seven cents for administration; and the balance was used for research, bounty payments, and miscellaneous activities.

The balance in the Game Fund as of May 31, 1960 amounted to \$5,345,415.10 which included \$3,468,802.09 in U. S. Securities.

During the fall of 1958, the Commission reinventoried all capital assets and we now have accurate records of all lands, buildings and other capital property.

#### DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION

##### Hunting Licenses Issued

More Resident and Nonresident Hunting Licenses were sold than ever before. During 1958 a record of 943,340 Resident, and 41,730 Nonresident Hunting Licenses issued was broken in 1959 when 942,827 Resident and 44,936 Nonresident Licenses were sold.

##### Nonresident Three-Day Special Licenses

Under the provisions of the Game Law, there were 2830 Nonresident Three-Day Special Regulated Shooting Grounds Licenses issued in 1958, and 2641 in 1959. The fee for these licenses, issued for three consecutive days only, is \$3.15. This license entitles the holder to hunt, take or kill on lawfully-operated regulated shooting grounds only, all wild birds and animals which may be legally hunted, taken or killed in the Commonwealth on such grounds and to participate in a shoot held thereon under a regulated shooting grounds permit.

##### Archery Licenses

The Commission, acting under the provisions of the Game Law, declared the eighth and ninth exclusive archery seasons for the hunting of deer. In 1958 the season was October 4 through October 24. In 1959 the season was October 3 through October 30.

The table which follows gives the number of licenses issued and the number of deer killed by bow hunters by years, and reflects the keen interest in this rapidly growing sport:



| <u>Year</u> | <u>Number of<br/>Licenses Issued</u> | <u>Number of<br/>Deer Killed</u> |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1951        | 5,542                                | 33                               |
| 1952        | 8,446                                | 24                               |
| 1953        | 10,691                               | 84                               |
| 1954        | 14,769                               | 55                               |
| 1955        | 17,318                               | 119                              |
| 1956        | 26,210                               | 224                              |
| 1957        | 55,559                               | 1358                             |
| 1958        | 72,937                               | 1358                             |
| 1959        | 76,767                               | 1409                             |

#### Hunting Accidents

The Commission used every means at its disposal to promote hunting safety. This included releases to the press, radio and television, talks by Commission personnel and sportsmen, motion pictures, posters, and educational material included in a Digest of Hunting and Trapping Regulations issued with every hunting license. While some mishaps occurred, it is believed the vigorous campaign produced worthwhile results.

During the two-year period there were 44 fatal and 949 non-fatal accidents. There was one fatal accident for every 44,837 hunters, based on the two-year average of 986,416 hunters. A 36-year compilation (1924-1959) of these accidents shows an average of 36 fatal casualties annually, 41.2% of them self-inflicted. During this long period, the average was one fatality for every 19,573 hunters, based on an average of 704,636 hunters per year.

#### Game Harvest

The success of any wildlife conservation program must be measured to a large degree on the annual harvest of the birds and animals which are managed under that program. Pennsylvania hunters enjoy one of the richest and most diversified game harvests that are gleaned anywhere, at a per capita expenditure which is very low.

| <u>Species</u>               | <u>1959<br/>Game Kill</u> | <u>1958<br/>Game Kill</u> |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Deer, Legal Antlered .....   | 38,270 .....              | 46,738                    |
| Deer, Legal Antlerless ..... | 51,902 .....              | 65,187                    |
| Total Deer .....             | 90,172** .....            | 111,925***                |
| Bears .....                  | 296 .....                 | 439                       |
| Rabbits .....                | 1,441,505x .....          | 1,305,031xx               |
| Hares (Snowshoes) .....      | 1,679 .....               | 1,277                     |
| Hungarian Partridges .....   | (Closed) .....            | (Closed)                  |
| Squirrels .....              | 512,655 .....             | 686,525                   |
| Raccoons .....               | 111,356 .....             | 111,105                   |
| Wild Turkeys .....           | 15,228 .....              | 13,008                    |



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| <u>Species</u>                  | <u>1959<br/>Game Kill</u> | <u>1958<br/>Game Kill</u> |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ruffed Grouse                   | 45,277 .....              | 43,815                    |
| Ringneck Pheasants .....        | 461,025 .....             | 437,670                   |
| Quail .....                     | 20,844 .....              | 11,726                    |
| Woodcocks .....                 | 12,250 .....              | 11,992                    |
| Rails, Gallinules & Coots ..... | 4,681 .....               | 7,204                     |
| Grackles (Blackbirds) .....     | -----#.....               | -----#                    |
| Wild Waterfowl .....            | 53,870 .....              | 58,627                    |
| Woodchucks .....                | 259,224 .....             | 282,546                   |
| Doves .....                     | 57,475 .....              | 44,791                    |
| Total Number .....              | 3,087,537 .....           | 3,127,681                 |

\* Small Game, based on Field Officers' estimates;  
Big Game, based on individual reports filed by hunters.

\*\* Includes 1,409 Deer killed during the 1959 Archery Season.

\*\*\* Includes 1,358 Deer killed during the 1958 Archery Season.

x Includes 103,315 Rabbits killed from December 26, 1959 to January 2, 1960.

xx Includes 76,790 Rabbits killed from December 27, 1958 to January 3, 1959.

# Unprotected -- No data.

#### Antlerless Deer Seasons

##### 1958 and 1959

In keeping with the Pennsylvania Game Commission's policy of maintaining a maximum breeding stock on all suitable areas in the Commonwealth consistent with other uses of such lands and to harvest, through public hunting, all surplus animals over and beyond what the range can carry in a healthy condition, an antlerless deer season was held in 1958 and again in 1959.

Allocations of Antlerless Deer Licenses for 66 of 67 counties (Philadelphia County excepted) were predicated on trends in the antlered deer seasons, crop damage and highway losses, winter mortality, range conditions and the reproductive capacity of the herd.

A total of 350,700 licenses were issued for the 1958 season (December 15, 16 and 17) which resulted in a harvest of 65,187 antlerless deer. A harvest of 51,902 deer was realized from the issuance of 371,550 licenses during the 1959 season, December 14, 15 and 16.

The cumulative effect of hunting regulations designed to produce maximum hunting opportunities and, at the same time, assure a carryover of a maximum breeding stock in keeping with existing food supplies is evident in many of the forested areas of the State. It is gratifying to en-



lightened sportsmen, foresters, farmers and game managers to see some of the heavily overbrowsed deer range beginning to stage a comeback. Improving range conditions and decreasing damage to agricultural crops indicate that the Commission's deer management program is paying dividends in the form of a better balance between the deer herd and its food supply.

### Training

To fill the field vacancies caused by retirement, death or resignation, the Commission on July 1, 1958 enrolled the Ninth Class of Student Officers, comprised of 25 men, in its Ross Leffler School of Conservation. Twenty-one of these persons graduated on March 21, 1959.

The Tenth Class, consisting of 25 men, was enrolled at the School on June 16, 1959, and the entire class graduated on April 9, 1960.

These graduated officers are now serving as game protectors.

### Information-Education

To help inform the public on Pennsylvania's wildlife management program and hunting and trapping facts, the Commission's weekly newsletter is sent to the editors of 453 newspapers, magazines and house organs in Pennsylvania; state and national conservation agencies and a number of outdoor writers in adjoining states, total 142; 139 radio and television stations, almost all in the Commonwealth; 30 for reporters in the Capitol News Room; 370 active and retired Commission personnel; approximately 1,400 Deputy Game Protectors; and 58 Fish Commission employees.

Approximately 40 special releases were distributed to the above-named during each of the last two fiscal years, usually with the newsletter. Items for immediate attention were on such subjects as game and fur seasons, hunter safety, laws and regulations pertaining to hunting and trapping, the acquisition of State Game Lands, the establishment of impoundments for waterfowl, recruitment and graduation of student officers, etc.

The wildlife information-education program is headed by a capable officer in each of the six administrative Field Divisions. Each Division Office services from 10 to 13 counties. The effort is augmented by approximately 200 field personnel throughout the Commonwealth, through meetings with adult and youth groups, and representatives of the news media. They also engage in public relations activities that disseminate wildlife management information.

### Major Exhibits

Major exhibits were displayed at the State Farm Show; the Philadelphia Motor Boat and Sportsmen's Show; the Allegheny County Free Fair and the Recreation and Sportsmen's Show, Harrisburg. Numerous smaller token displays were presented, largely at county fairs and sportsmen's exhibits throughout the Commonwealth.



More than one million persons visited the Commission's permanent wildlife exhibits at Hershey and the Pymatuning Waterfowl Sanctuary in Crawford County during the biennium. These have become popular nature schools for many thousands of school children each year, as well as thousands of adults.

#### Lectures

The Commission's field and office personnel presented programs before more than 10,000 assemblages. The groups were composed of senior and junior high school students and elementary school children, sportsmen, FFA and 4-H youth groups, granges, colleges, women's and garden clubs, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, church, civic, and fraternal organizations.

#### Visual Aids

The Commission produced a 16mm sound-on-color motion picture, "SAFE AND SANE HUNTING" to provide additional impetus to the agency's state-wide hunting safety program. The film vividly demonstrates proper methods of using guns and bows and arrows. It particularly emphasizes how the youth of Pennsylvania is being trained in proper handling of guns and bows by Commission personnel and other qualified instructors in an effort to reduce shooting casualties. The film received National Award honor by the American Association for Conservation Information as an outstanding film production during 1959.

A number of one-minute, 16mm film "spots" for TV programs, were produced and released by television stations in the State. They conveyed the safety message and informed the public on the State's wildlife management program.

Six additional motion picture films were selected for showing by the Field Division Offices and Harrisburg personnel because they ably depict the life cycles of game birds found in Pennsylvania and teach soil and water truths, these resources being vital to any wildlife program. These films were presented to vast audiences through the medium of television, also.

Numerous 35mm color slide lectures were prepared and distributed to the six Field Division Offices as an additional means of presenting Pennsylvania's wildlife management program and activities to the public.

The Commission conducted through the facilities of radio stations in the State, thirteen weekly quarter-hour programs using tape recordings which presented to the public the major activities related to the management of the Commonwealth's wildlife resources.

#### Special Programs

Annual allocations were provided to the following organizations: The Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh; The Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia; The Conservation Education Laboratory for Teachers, The Pennsyl-



vania State University; the Future Farmers of America and 4-H Clubs to continue to further the conservation-education program.

In August 1958, the Commission participated in the 16th National Plowing Contest and Conservation Exposition at Hershey Farms, Hershey, Pennsylvania. Staff technicians demonstrated wildlife conservation practices through practical land management applications for the farm. Commission Conservation Information Assistants explained the various conservation practices to thousands of persons in attendance.

The Commission inaugurated a firearms and hunter education program in June of 1958 to further stimulate efforts to reduce the number of hunter casualties in the State. The entire field staff qualified as instructors of the National Rifle Association's firearms safety and hunting arms courses and cooperated in qualifying some 3,000 additional adult instructors the first year. Over 15,000 students, the high percentage youngsters, successfully completed the course in 1958-59. Thousands more passed the firearms training course during the balance of the biennium.

The Commission cooperated with the Pennsylvania Forestry Association and nine other resource management agencies in the State in conducting a program of competition in which 48,000 school children competed to select a name for the raccoon which will be used extensively to symbolize good outdoor manners. The winning name was submitted by a first-grade pupil from Charleroi, Washington County. It was officially identified as "Howdy the Raccoon," who reminds the public that good outdoor manners are essential to the enjoyments of humans out-of-doors and the preservation of our parks, forests, fields and streams.

The Wildlife Conservation Award Program was continued by the Commission. Through this program an attractive emblem is awarded to individual Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Future Farmers of America, 4-H Clubs and members of similar youth groups who have successfully attained standards in wildlife conservation practices as established by the respective organizations.

The Commission continued to contribute financial, physical and material assistance to the Conservation-Education Laboratory for Teachers, a cooperative conservation project conducted each year at The Pennsylvania State University. Through these three-week sessions the teachers receive instruction in the classroom and on trips to demonstration areas where they learn through practical application the conservation and management of all our natural resources. These summer sessions proved very beneficial.

#### Junior Conservation Camp

The Commission furnished instructors and material assistance to the Pennsylvania Junior Conservation Camp sponsored annually by the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs during the summer months of 1958 and 1959. This outdoor conservation experience was given to almost 300 high school boys in eight separate groups.



Publications -- Game News

The Commission continued publication of its official monthly magazine "PENNSYLVANIA GAME NEWS" which has been recognized throughout the state and nation as a leader in its field. Paid circulation during these two years averaged 51,878 per month. An additional 20,000 copies were mailed on a complimentary basis to members of the Legislature, other Pennsylvania governmental agencies, other state and federal conservation agencies, school and college libraries throughout Pennsylvania, Deputy Game Protectors, landowners enrolled in the Commission's Cooperative Farm-Game Program and Safety Zone Program, outdoor writers, newspapers, etc. During the second year of the Biennium a new all-time record paid circulation was established with the June 1959 issue (53,137 paid subscribers); this record has been surpassed with every issue since then.

A new paid publication was published in January 1960. Written by Wildlife Education Specialist Leo A. Luttringer, "Pennsylvania Bird-life" is greatly in demand by citizens and teachers who are interested in our native and migratory wild birds. Other publications distributed on a paid basis during the period included:

- A set of Bird Charts in full color.
- A set of four Bird and Mammal Charts in full color.
- A booklet "Pennsylvania Wildlife."
- A book "Birds of Pymatuning."
- A "Sportsman's Map of Pennsylvania."
- A booklet "Pennsylvania Trapping and Predator Control Methods."

DIVISION OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Construction and Maintenance

New construction during the Biennium included 47 bridges, 51 miles of roads, 11 gates and 15 metal storage buildings. This construction aided in the development of Game Lands for better wildlife production. The winter feeding of wild turkeys was augmented by the construction of 3 corn cribs and 602 turkey feeders.

Boundary lines were maintained or established on 4,300 miles. Also, maintenance work was carried out on 1,260 miles of roads, 635 miles of fire trails, 2,100 turkey feeders and over 100,000 acres of refuges, propagation areas and other special projects, plus all Commission-owned buildings, gates and other equipment.

Eleven small marsh ponds were constructed. These ponds flooded a total of 94.9 acres and beneficially affected many more acres.

Food and Cover Development

The sale of forest products improved food and cover conditions on more than 33,000 acres of Game Lands. Payment in the amount of \$341,893.86 was received from local timber operators. These sales included 12,236,897 board feet of sawlogs, 1,978.64 tons of mine timbers, 32,050.19 cords of pulpwood, 201,860 posts and props and 331 Christmas trees.



In addition to the areas of State Game Lands improved for wildlife through timber sales, an additional 5,860.6 acres were treated by various methods, including clear-cuttings, treatment by bulldozer, thinnings and release cuttings. More than 22,000 trees, mostly apple, were pruned. An estimated 90,000 acres of surrounding Game Lands benefited greatly from these operations.

Woodland borders, field borders, road and trail sides were also cut. These cuttings usually are 50' or less in width. This type of cutting totaled 3,552 acres. Also, another 203 acres previously cut and grown up was recut. Much of this cutting was adjacent to food plots and the removal of shade increased crop growth beneficial to wildlife.

During the Biennium 333 plots totaling 465.4 acres of reverting fields and semi-open forested areas were cleared and planted to small grains, grasses and legumes. These plots and other plots on Game Lands and leased areas planted to grains, grasses and legumes totaled 4,500.4 acres on 2,780 separate plots. An additional 1,232 plots totaling 2,060 acres were seeded to cover crops, and 3,089 acres of Game Lands were sharecropped by farmers living in the vicinity of the Game Lands. In all instances whether the work was done by Commission personnel or sharecropped, the latest soil conservation practices were used.

The winter feeding program during the Biennium resulted in field personnel distributing 179,117 bushels of ear corn and other grains. Most of this grain was placed in specially constructed feeders. Many sportsmen cooperated in this program.

The Howard Nursery produced 12,902,422 seedlings. All seedlings needed for Game Lands, leased land and Farm-Game Projects were secured from the nursery production. Those not required for these areas were distributed to conservation organizations.

#### Farm-Game Cooperative Section

The Cooperative Farm-Game Program which is still one of the Commission's best farmer-sportsmen relations projects, totaled 1,192,232 acres and included 165 projects consisting of 11,233 farms as of May 31, 1960.

Since funds limited the program to approximately 1,000,000 acres, which were already leased at the end of the last Biennium, there has been very little change in the Farm-Game Program except for some cancellations and the execution of new agreements.

#### Safety Zone Program

This major program was developed to open privately-owned land to public hunting. Each farm in the program contains a minimum of 50 acres and the Game Commission gives each cooperator safety zone signs to post around buildings on the property.

A total number of 3,841 farms, containing 575,109 acres, were open to hunting under this program during the past season.



### Land Titles and Records

As of May 31, 1960, the total area of Game Lands owned by the Commission was 940,160.47 acres, divided into 210 units. This was a gain of 17,437.60 acres and 4 units during the Biennium.

The Commission paid a total of \$4,192,820.39 for the purchase of all of the Game Lands owned at the end of the Biennium, or an average of approximately \$4.46 per acre. Purchases completed during this Biennium amounted to \$471,935.45, or an average of approximately \$27.06 per acre.

The total area of all game management projects, including those on lands owned by the Commission, as well as those on land owned by others, and including refuges in State Forests and all other public lands, increased from 2,034,240.46 acres to 2,205,394.23.

### DIVISION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

#### Prosecution Record

During the last Biennium, 9,816 cases of Game Law violations were prosecuted, resulting in penalties amounting to \$326,144.75. The high ratio of successful cases reflects the excellent judgment used by our Game Protectors in the enforcement of the Game Law.

#### Hunting and Trapping License Revocations

The Commission denied the hunting and trapping privileges of 2,656 convicted offenders of the Game Law. As a result of Referee hearings in hunting accidents, where negligence or carelessness was found to exist, 166 additional persons lost hunting and trapping privileges for various periods of time. In addition, the several Courts of Quarter Sessions of the Commonwealth revoked the hunting rights of 43 persons who had been found guilty of shooting, and in some cases, killing human beings in mistake for game.

#### Bear Damage Claims

The Game Law provides for payment to cover damages by bears to livestock, poultry and bee hives. During the Biennium 58 such claims were adjusted and a total of \$2,809.12 was paid to the claimants from the Game Fund.

#### Deer-Proof Fence Agreements

The Commission, in cooperation with landowners whose property is open to public hunting, and who are engaged in farming or maintaining fruit orchards or commercial tree nurseries, entered into agreement with 18 owners to furnish 6,820 rods of deer-proof fencing and 1023 lbs. of staples to protect portions of their property from depredations by deer. Under this agreement the property-owners furnish the posts and labor, and erect and maintain the fence. The amount paid from Commission Funds for the fencing and staples was \$19,923.48.



### Uniforms

The Commission has worked during the past two years to raise the standards for its officers' uniform equipment. Through the cooperation of Prison Industries this Division has obtained such equipment readily and more nearly to specifications, particularly as to style and color.

During the Biennium we have acquired new and improved sample items of field equipment which are presently undergoing "on-the-job" testing so that the best may be selected.

### Equipment

New side arms were purchased for all officers, with the trade-in of the old arms. Other equipment bought for Game Protectors was purchased at a cost of \$23,530.16, making our Game Protectors the finest equipped anywhere, and included holsters, Sam Browne belts, dress and field shoes, insulated footwear, traps, electronic callers for predators, animal lure, snow shoes, gloves, fur caps, raincoats and new badges.

### Special Permits

Special permits were issued in the amount of 4,250, and fees for them totaled \$44,043.00. These permits include Taxidermists, Regulated Shooting Grounds, Game and Fur Propagation, Raw Fur-Dealers, Field and Retriever Trials, etc.

### Radio Short-Wave Two-Way System

The Game Commission and the State Council of Civil Defense state-wide radio system is nearing completion. It has 11 control points, 27 automatic repeater stations, 205 radio mobile units and 39 portable pack sets. This represents a total cost of \$437,967.04.

Through the joint project and the sharing of this state-wide communication system with the State Council of Civil Defense, half of the total cost is covered by Federal matching funds. This system largely provides Civil Defense administrative and Game Commission law enforcement facilities.

### Deputy Game Protectors

Our efforts toward better-type Deputy Game Protector personnel are bearing fruit. Part of the new plan has been holding an increased number of meetings for in-service training. The value of these meetings has been enhanced by the inclusion of a great deal of public relations education.

Within the last year an entirely new and expanded examination for Deputy Game Protectors was adopted. This written examination includes additional subjects and is more in keeping with modern educational attainments. It is intended to elevate the quality of our Deputy personnel.



### Bounty In-service Training

During the two-year period 147 Game Protectors were brought into the Harrisburg Office of the Game Commission, in groups of six to eight, to participate in a one-day in-service training course offered in the Commission's Bounty Section. Instructions were given on fur identification, the bounty system, and investigation procedure of fraudulent claims presented for bounty.

### Predator Control

Programs emphasizing the need for predator control, trapping demonstrations and other aspects of predator control work were presented before audiences totaling 13,791 persons. Four television and two radio appearances were also made by the Supervisor of Predator Control. 29 meetings were held to instruct game protectors on the latest techniques of the control program and a series of instructions were given to two classes of student officers at The Ross Leffler School of Conservation.

District Game Protectors held 513 meetings during the Biennium for the purpose of encouraging public participation in predator control work. 5,227 persons attended these meetings and received instructions in trapping, calling predators, and other associated techniques of this phase of conservation work.

### Bounty Claims

During the two-year period 15,507 bounty claims were examined and approved for payment. These claims covered the killing of 17,211 gray foxes, 33,754 red foxes and 2,150 great horned owls and payments totaled \$214,610.00.

In addition, 254 questionable bounty claims were sent to the field for investigation, which resulted in the collection of \$1,925.00 in penalties. Bounty was refused in claims covering 223 gray foxes, 377 red foxes and 7 great horned owls, a saving of \$2,435.00 to the Game Fund.

### DIVISION OF MINERALS

#### Oil and Gas Leases

Six (6) previously existing and four (4) new oil and gas leases were serviced. From them the Commission received natural gas production royalties and land rentals for the lease acreage, as follows:

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| Royalties from 401,716,000 cu. ft. of gas ..... | \$ 57,772.37      |
| Land Rentals from oil and gas leases .....      | <u>117,642.29</u> |
| Total Income from Oil and Gas Leases .....      | \$175,414.66      |



Included in the above was land rental received from two oil and gas leases totaling 345 acres held by United Natural Gas Company and transferred to the Commission when the Jean Olsen and Baker lands in Crawford County were conveyed to the Commonwealth. These leases expired during 1959.

The New York State Natural Gas Company, due to existing court proceedings over ownership of the oil and gas rights in the S.G.L. #93 lease, has withheld \$13,466.15 covering royalty payment on 289,595,000 cu. ft. of marketed gas. Recently the Department of Justice instituted proceedings against the New York State Natural Gas Company to collect these royalty payments. If final court action confirms Commonwealth ownership, these delayed payments and future royalties will be paid into the Game Fund.

Due to the development of new gas fields in Somerset and Westmoreland Counties and the recent drilling of productive wells on State Game Lands #42 and #111, the income from royalties from natural gas production should greatly increase during the next Biennium.

#### Coal Stripping Permits

Eight (8) permits, issued to individuals or companies owning coal underlying State Game Lands, yielded an income to the Commission, as follows:

Surface Damage Royalties for the strip-mining of reserved coal -

645,727.38 tons mined ..... \$76,435.72

Removal of coal under the Harry A. Englehart, Jr. permit, covering 35 acres of S.G.L. #108, Cambria County, was discontinued. Planting of the backfilled acreage should be completed during the next fiscal year.

Mining operations, backfilling, leveling and planting of strip-mined areas were inspected and lease terms checked with the permittees.

#### Fire Clay Permit

On April 1, 1959 a five-year permit to remove fire clay from a former lease area on State Game Lands was executed. Under provisions of this agreement the operators are to back-fill and plant all previously stripped acreage and any new locations where clay may be removed. This permit was approved by the Commission as a reclamation measure on acreage where unleveled spoil piles exist.

Removal of fire clay and income to the Game Fund during the Biennium are as follows:

7653.1 tons mined ..... \$ 2,755.13

Per terms of the lease, the lessee backfilled and leveled approximately one-third of the acreage previously stripped. Planting will be conducted later under supervision of the Commission's Land Manager.



### Cooperative Activities

Personnel in the Division of Minerals assisted in Land Management activities by examining tracts of potential Game Lands and correlating the processing of Land Purchase Options.

### DIVISION OF PROPAGATION

The Commission continued its program of furnishing pheasant chicks to sportsmen's organizations and farmers. During the Biennium they were provided 454,159 pheasant chicks, of which 376,964 were raised to 12 weeks of age and released. This represents an average of nearly 83% raised to liberation age, a splendid record.

The production of wild turkeys at the State Wild Turkey Farm was maintained. More than 6,000 were liberated in each of the last two years. Each of the Commission's six Field Divisions has a hardening pen located in a mountainous section. Young game farm toms are hardened in the enclosures for six weeks before liberation. The population of wild turkeys in the Commonwealth is now at an all-time high.

Game Farm production of bobwhite quail decreased slightly. Quail eggs are supplied to owners of junglefowl on a state-wide basis. After hatching, the hen and brood are liberated. Those released, in addition to those from the Game Farm, enhanced the quail population which has shown a very encouraging increase in Pennsylvania in the last two years. At present quail are more numerous than any time since 1935.

Pheasant production at the Game Farms has been maintained at full capacity and the purchase program has been held at the level of the last Biennium. The Southwest Game Farm, in Armstrong County, has been given Game Farm status by the construction of 50 new brooder houses and a superintendent's dwelling. Production of pheasants at this farm began in 1958.

Cottontail rabbits trapped from towns, gardens, parks, etc. during the two-year period numbered 96,991. This was accomplished during a thirty-day season each winter.

The rearing of five-week-old Mallard ducks was continued. Five hundred (500) ducks are held for egg production at Refuge #510, Pymatuning. Facilities for breeding and holding ducks there were increased. Hatching was started in 1957, and since 1959 production at the State Wild Waterfowl Farm has fulfilled the need for the ducklings desired for liberation; hence no day-old ducklings were purchased from commercial breeders.

### SUMMARY OF ALL GAME RELEASED (raised at Game Farms or purchased or live-trapped and transferred):

|                        |         |                  |        |
|------------------------|---------|------------------|--------|
| Ringneck Pheasants ... | 518,021 | Wild Turkeys ... | 13,321 |
| Cottontail Rabbits ... | 96,991  | Canada Geese ... | 335    |
| Bobwhite Quail .....   | 25,219  | Snowshoe Hares.. | 663    |
| Wild Ducks .....       | 18,155  |                  |        |



DIVISION OF RESEARCH

A rapidly increasing human population and its attendant demands for living space, highways, food, clothing and shelter is daily changing Pennsylvania's wildlife habitat. Due to stepped-up timber harvests, clean farming practices and urbanization some of the habitat is being changed for the better, some adversely, and some completely eliminated. With these ever-changing ecological conditions and increasing hunting pressure caused by a growing number of hunters, more leisure hours and less area available for hunting, the job of furnishing satisfactory hunting is becoming increasingly difficult.

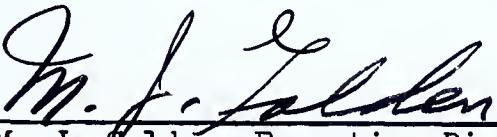
To assist it in meeting this challenge, the Game Commission carried on a continuous research program. It would be impossible to increase or even maintain a game species without intimate knowledge of habitat requirements and the habits of the animal in question. Obtainable only through research, this basic information serves as a foundation for the Commission's dynamic and up-to-date wildlife management program.

Under year-round deer research investigations the Game Commission has been supplied with the biological data upon which to base a sound deer management program. In essence, hunting regulations have been established that produce a reasonably stable harvest, provide a carryover of a maximum breeding stock in keeping with existing food supplies and afford maximum hunting opportunities to the maximum number of hunters. This approach resulted in 1958 and 1959 deer harvests of 111,925 and 90,172 animals and its cumulative effect is evident in many forested and agricultural areas of the State. Much of the severely overbrowsed range is showing signs of recovery and crop depredations by deer have appreciably decreased.

Other studies conducted during the Biennium included: An Evaluation of Habitat Development for Wildlife, Wild Turkey, Cottontail and Snowshoe Hare, Woodcock Management, Experimental Management of the Conemaugh River Reservoir, Waterfowl Banding and several miscellaneous and cooperative undertakings, the latter with the Pennsylvania State University.

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:

  
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